

WASHINGTON NEWS

An Associated Press dispatch says: John E. Wilkie, supervising special agent of the customs service and for fourteen years chief of the United States secret service, will resign from the government service shortly, it was learned in unofficial quarters recently. Mr. Wilkie will retire volun-

tarily to accept a commercial position in Chicago. His successor has not yet been chosen. Former Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh appointed Mr. Wilkie to head the force that investigated widespread customs frauds unearthed in the last few years. As chief of the secret service Mr. Wilkie organized the emergency force of men that checkmated Spanish spies of the time of the war with Spain.

Dr. C. P. Neill, United States commissioner of labor since 1905, and recently appointed and confirmed commissioner of labor statistics, has resigned to accept the management of a private firm.

An Associated Press dispatch says: Special arbitration treaties between the United States and seven other countries which expire by limitation this year will be renewed by the state department if the foreign governments are willing. Secretary Bryan made this announcement in connection with the proposed immediate renewal of the British-American treaty, which terminates on June 4. The treaties will expire in the following order: Spain, June 2; Great Britain, June 4; Norway, June 24; Sweden, August 18; Japan, August 24; Portugal, November 24; Switzerland, December 23. A similar treaty between the United States and Mexico expires on June 27. Whether this is renewed will depend upon the relations existing between the countries at that time.

Republican senators are fighting the confirmation of W. J. Harris, of Georgia, for director of the census.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger prints the following Paris cablegram: The national peace congress adopted a lengthy program, which it demanded the French government should support at The Hague in 1915. It embodies in a resolution the following sentiment: "The congress felicitates President Woodrow Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan on their project relating to an inquiry by commissions with a view to the solution of international differences."

A Washington dispatch to the Columbia, S. C., State, says: Fourth class postmasters must be able to read, to count accurately the money they receive, to measure the oil cloth on the floors of their offices and to write at least a decipherable letter once in a while, if they are taken under the wing of the civil service. In effect they must have a reasonable understanding of "reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic" according to regulations issued by the postoffice department. Every person eligible to take the civil service examination must be a citizen of the United States over twenty-one years old and must reside in the community served by the office he aspires to fill. No one will be eligible who is crazy, an ex-convict, who has been dishonorably discharged from the army or navy, or who is disposed, even occasionally, to reduce the visible supply of strong drink. All examinations will be conducted by the civil service commission and will not be for appointment generally but for a particular office. The eligibility for appointment after examination will be for one year only, except in special instances. The examination will not be severe but will be sufficient to test the business capacity of the applicants.

Senator Chamberlain's resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution to give the ballot to women was ordered favorably reported by the senate woman suffrage committee. Chairman Thomas and Senator

Owen, democrats, and Senators Jones, Sutherland and Clapp, republicans, voted for the resolution, while Senator Catron, republican, voted against it.

Plans for the electrical wiring of the Dreadnaught Pennsylvania have been stolen from the navy department.

Senator Kern of Indiana, is pressing the resolution for investigation of the conditions responsible for the coal strike in West Virginia.

Secretary Lane of the interior department favors government-owned railroad lines in Alaska. He says this is the only way to fully develop that country.

Representative Heflin of Alabama has made a poll of the house and he announces that the democratic majority is five to one against woman suffrage.

A special dispatch to the Denver News tells of an interesting case reopened by Secretary McAdoo of the treasury, in this way: John Wanamaker, the New York-Philadelphia merchant and at one time post-master general, is facing possible prosecution by the federal government for alleged customs undervaluations. Agents of the department of justice are now at work on the investigation. The result will be laid before a federal grand jury in Philadelphia in June. On March 11, last, Mr. Wanamaker made a settlement with the treasury department in the amount of \$100,000. The specific charge is that Mr. Wanamaker undervalued several hundred thousand dollars' worth of imports, thereby defrauding the federal government out of more than \$100,000 customs dues. When Mr. Wanamaker settled with the government it was said that the treasury had been deprived for fifteen years of large sums through irregular practices in the importation of samples of merchandise. It was founded that it had been the practice of the customs examiner at Philadelphia to pass samples at no value or a small one. In each case the amount was negligible, but in a period of years it amounted to a considerable sum.

A Washington dispatch, carried by the Associated Press, says: There will be no contest in the senate over the nomination of Joseph E. Davies of Madison, Wis., as commissioner of corporations, although republican senators announced recently that they would see to it that the nomination was held up until Mr. Davies relinquished the secretaryship of the democratic national committee. Representative Fitzgerald of New York called President Wilson's attention to the fact that the law authorizing the president to make this appointment does not require confirmation by the senate. So the nomination will be withdrawn and Mr. Davies' appointment proclaimed.

A dispatch to the Louisville Courier-Journal says: Representative Aiken, of South Carolina, has protested the re-election of Ben Johnson as head of the house committee on the District of Columbia, claiming the Kentuckian promised to relinquish claim to the place this year. This is denied by Mr. Johnson's friends.

The democrats in the senate defeated the Penrose-La Follette amendment directing the holding of public hearings on the tariff bill, by a vote of 41 to 36. The bill was then referred to the committee. Two democrats, Senator Ramsdell and Thornton of Louisiana, voted with the opponents of the bill. Senator

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